METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROTECTING AGAINST VIRUSES ON PARTITIONABLE MEDIA

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and methods that protect against boot sector viruses on partitioned media of a computer system. The apparatus and methods incorporate code in system firmware, or basic input/output system (BIOS) that parses the partition table. The Apparatus and methods thus provide virus protection implemented by the system

5   firmware (BIOS). Exemplary boot sector virus protection apparatus and methods comprise a computer system having a nonvolatile memory and a mass storage device with a master boot record containing a partition table. The apparatus and methods store code in the nonvolatile memory that is capable of reading the partition table in the master boot record stored in the mass storage device, or stored in a secure area of the mass

10   storage device. The stored code is used to read the master boot record, locate the partition table in the master boot table, locate a bootable partition within the partition table, and begin a boot process using the bootable partition. A checksum of the master boot record or its partition table, or a cyclic redundancy check of the master boot record or its partition table are preferably used.